



A World without Guns

Violence is one of the great tragedies of the 20th and 21st centuries. In times of peace and in times of war, guns have destroyed millions of lives and wreaked incalculable damage in communities across the globe. Gun violence exists not just on the warfront, but also in our homes, on our streets, in schools and public gathering places. What would our international community be like without guns? Can we imagine a world without the threat of violence?



The Art Gallery of Alberta is pleased to present the travelling exhibition *Gun Sculpture*. This highly engaging exhibition features Sandra Bromley and Wallis Kendall's monumental *Gun Sculpture* alongside photographs of victims of gun violence, a documentary video, and interpretive materials to create a shared space of reflection, remembrance, discussion and healing.

There are more than 875 million firearms in the world. 75 per cent in the hands of civilians.

The Gun Sculpture

The *Gun Sculpture* makes manifest the impact of guns and their proliferation throughout the globe. In 1995, artists Sandra Bromley and Wallis Kendall embarked on a five-year quest to produce this work of art. Seeking donations from around the world, the artists acquired guns from across North and Central America, and from as far and wide as South Africa, Ireland and South Korea. In the end, over 7000 guns were acquired and deactivated. They were then welded together in the shape of a massive dark cube measuring 8' tall, 12' long and 8' wide. A tomb that is entered through a yawning side-door, the walls of this sculpture are comprised of handguns, rifles, semi- and fully automatic weapons, landmines, grenades, rocket launchers and bullets. When exhibited, the *Gun Sculpture* is accompanied by haunting photographs of individuals who are victims of and, in some cases, survivors of gun violence. Together these photographs and the *Gun Sculpture* demand our attention. Here, we cannot ignore the sheer volume of small arms found throughout our world, and the undeniable trauma that they wield.

Each year, 10 to 15 billion rounds of ammunition are manufactured — enough bullets to shoot every person in the world not once, but twice.

A Travelling Exhibition

Starting in 2001, the *Gun Sculpture* travelled to the Centenary Celebrations of the Nobel Peace Prize, Seoul, South Korea; the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa; the United Nations Headquarters, New York City; and the Vienna International Centre, Austria. More than a decade later, the *Gun Sculpture* is embarking on a final travelling exhibition tour before it is installed at a permanent home. The AGA is seeking galleries, museums, cultural and political institutions to host this important and powerful exhibition between 2015 and 2018.

The exhibition features the *Gun Sculpture*, as well as the photographs depicting victims and survivors of gun violence, interpretive panels, a video documentary and a site-specific comment wall for visitor response and engagement.



Availability

2015 – 2018; minimum 12 week bookings

Content

- *Gun Sculpture* (measuring 8' tall, 12' long and 8' wide; comprised of 14 separate panels)
- Photographs of victims of gun violence (printed or projected)
- Video documentary about the making of the *Gun Sculpture* (7 minutes)

Interpretive Panels

- Including site-specific comment board designed to capture visitors' responses

Catalogue

36-page catalogue featuring texts by Amanda Boetzkes and Andy Knight

Loan Fee

\$25,000 CDN. Includes administration, maintenance, two technicians and storage.

Exhibition Area Requirements

This exhibition requires at a minimum:

- Minimum floor space of 85 square metres (915 square feet)
- Wall space of 10 linear metres (32 feet)
- Ceiling height of 4.7 metres (15 feet)

Note: most venues built for exhibitions and displays will be able to accommodate the weight of the *Gun Sculpture*. Please inquire for further details.

Installation requirements

Venues will be responsible for providing:

- Installation time of five days; de-installation of four days
- 2 technicians to assist with installation and de-installation
- Regular gallery lighting – spots and floods
- Monitor and DVD player (or equivalent)
- Fork lift (5000 lb) with extended forks
- Genie lift (preferred)
- Two 12 – 14' ladders

For installation of photographic images of victims of violence:

This component of the exhibition is designed to be adaptable to different venues. Images may be hung directly on the wall, on a hanging system or projected. For projections, venues will need to provide: six projectors with suspension support, and ceiling access to electrical outlets.

Insurance

The borrower will pay for full-coverage insurance for the total value of the exhibition. A certificate of insurance is required.

Contact

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About the artists

Sandra Bromley's multidisciplinary art practice encompasses sculpture, video, sound, photography, and installation. Over the last twenty years Bromley has been focusing on a series of artworks based on issues of conflict and resolution. Recent showings include exhibits in Edmonton, Berlin, and Warsaw. Graduating from the University of Alberta in 1979 with a BFA (Distinction), Bromley's awards include the 2000 Salute to Excellence Arts Award from the City of Edmonton, a 2003 Canadian Consortium for Human Security Fellowship, a Global Woman of Vision Award in 2006, and a 2009 Honoured Alumni Award from the University of Alberta.

Wallis Kendal is an artist, writer, and social activist. A folk hero in his hometown of Edmonton, Kendal has been involved with art and youth for the last thirty years. In 1997, Kendal and Bromley formed the iHuman Youth Society, which has developed hugely successful and innovative programs for at-risk youth. In 2005, Kendal was recognized as one of Canada's Ten Top Heroes in Time Magazine. He has received numerous other awards including the 2000 Salute to Excellence in the Arts, and an Alumni Honour Award from the University of Alberta.

* Stats provided by gunpolicy.org

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More than 740,000 people die each year as a result of armed violence. The majority of these deaths happen in countries not affected by armed conflicts.